

REMARKS

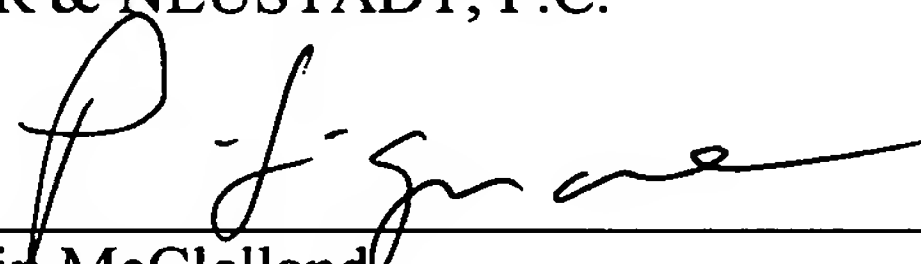
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are present in this application. The present preliminary amendment amends Claims 3-17 to remove multiple dependencies and to correct minor informalities. Applicants submit no new matter is added.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



C. Irvin McClelland  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 21,124

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 43,922

I:\ATTY\PJCS\MISCELLANEOUS\PJCS\PRELIMINARY AMENDMENTS\294415US-PA.DOC